

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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S E C R E T USUN 1343

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, XF, LE, IS

SUBJ: BRITISH REACTION TO US DRAFT RES ON LEBANESE

SECURITY COUNCIL COMPLAINT

REF: USUN 1338

1. THIS MORNING WE GAVE UK MISSION US DRAFT SC RESOLUTION ON LEBANESE COMPLAINT WHICH UNDER SECRETARY SISCO AND AMB SCALI DISCUSSED EARLIER IN DAY. BRITISH ARE TRANSMITTING TEXT IMMEDIATELY TO LONDON. THEY WERE AWARE OF YESTERDAY'S DISCUSSION BETWEEN SECRETARY AND MINISTER OF STATE ENNALS AND OF US WISH TO VOTE "YES" ON BALANCED RESOLUTION.

2. INITIAL BRITISH REACTION WAS THAT ANY RESOLUTION WOULD BE DOOMED IF IT WERE SPONSORED BY, OR KNOWN TO HAVE ORIGINATED FROM, US. (GIVEN FRENCH ATTITUDE AND PRESENT COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL, WE AGREE WITH THIS ASSESSMENT.) ACCORDINGLY, BRITISH SUGGESTED THAT WE TRY SAME TACTIC THAT HAD BEEN MARKEDLY SUCCESSFUL IN UNEF EXTENSION EXERCISE. UK MISSION WOULD FLOAT DRAFT FIRST WITH FRENCH AND IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER WITH AUSTRALIANS AND AUSTRIANS, DEPICTING IT AS EFFORT TO BRIDGE GAP BETWEEN NON-ALIGNED AND USG. IT WOULD BE IMPLICIT, BUT NOT STATED, THAT DRAFT
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HAD US BLESSING. BRITISH FEEL THERE IS ENOUGH RELUCTANCE

BY OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS TO ENGAGE IN DRAFTING EXERCISE THAT COMPROMISE DRAFT WOULD BE WELCOMED.

3. BRITISH CONSIDER FRENCH ATTITUDE TO BE CRITICAL. UK EMBASSY PARIS HAD LAST NIGHT CABLED ITS ASSESSMENT THAT FRENCH WOULD CONTINUE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL TERRORIST ACTIONS AND ACTS OF STATES TERRORISM, AND WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY INSIST ON TYPE OF CONDEMNATION CONTAINED IN LAST APRIL'S SC RES (SC RES 332) ON ISRAELI RAIDS INTO LEBANON. (ONE OF THE THREE INGREDIENTS OF A SC RES CALLED FOR BY FRENCH REP YESTERDAY IN STATEMENT TO SC WAS REITERATION OF CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL CONTAINED IN PARA 2 OF SC 332.)

4. UK MISSION'S PRELIMINARY VIEW WAS THAT TWO THINGS WOULD BE NECESSARY TO BRING FRENCH ON BOARD RESOLUTION THAT US COULD VOTE FOR. THESE WERE, FIRST, SOME INITIAL COSMETIC CHANGES TO MAKE RES LOOK LESS LIKE STANDARD PAST US DRAFTS. SPECIFICALLY, BRITISH WONDERED WHETHER WE WERE NOT CREATING UNNECESSARY PROBLEMS IN FIRST TWO PRE-AMBULAR PARAS BY CHARACTERIZING EXACT NATURE OF LEBANESE AND ISRAELI COMPLAINTS. ANOTHER QUESTION WAS WHETHER OP PARA 3 DID NOT CREATE DIFFICULTIES BY CALLING UPON TERRORISTS TO CEASE HOSTILE ACTS AGAINST ISRAEL RATHER THAN REMINDING LEBANESE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO CURB TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, AS IN OP PARA 2 OF DRAFT TRANSMITTED REFTEL. BRITISH ALSO WONDERED WHETHER DEPARTMENT'S OP PARA 3 MIGHT NOT BE TAKEN BY SYRIA AS BEING DIRECTED IN PART AT IT, AND THEREFORE COMPLICATING MATTERS.

5. BRITISH ALSO THOUGHT SOME ROOM FOR FALLBACK IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRENCH AND NON-ALIGNED WOULD BE NECESSARY. AT MINIMUM, THEY THOUGHT BOTH QIRYAT SHMONA TERRORISM AND ISRAELI RETALIATORY RAIDS WOULD HAVE TO BE EXPLICITLY CONDEMNED RATHER THAN DEPLORED. WE REMINDED BRITISH THAT IMPORTANT ISSUE WAS AT STAKE, I.E., POSSIBILITY OF US AFFIRMATIVE VOTE IN SC ON ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE, AND THAT THAT WOULD NOT MATERIALIZE IN ANYTHING LESS THAN BALANCED RESOLUTION.

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6. ON MATTER OF WHEN TO FLOAT DRAFT, BRITISH AND WE FELT IT WOULD BE BEST TO LEAVE THIS OPEN AND DEPENDENT ON DEVELOPING TACTICAL SITUATION. WE AGREED THAT MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON OUTCOME OF NON-ALIGNED MEETING THIS MORNING (REFTEL).

7. TACTICAL SITUATION IS IN FACT MOVING QUICKLY. NON-ALIGNED MEETING BROKE AT LUNCH TIME AFTER CONSIDERABLE

DISCUSSION OF LEBANESE/INDONESIAN DRAFT RES BUT WITHOUT
HAVING TAKEN ANY DECISION. AT INITIATIVE OF INDONESIA
PERM REP SANI, TEN NON-PERMANENT MEMBERS ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET AT 3:30
PM THIS
AFTERNOON. FRENCH HAVE TOLD BRITISH THEY WOULD PREFER TO
SEE NON-ALIGNED RATHER THAN EUROPEAN DRAFT RES. IN ABSENCE
OF ANY PERCEPTIBLE ACTIVITY ON PART OF BRITISH OR OUR-
SELVES, AUSTRALIA AND AUSTRIA ARE ALSO INCLINED TO LET
NON-ALIGNED TAKE LEAD.

8. IN ORDER TO FORESTALL DRAFTING EXERCISE THIS AFTERNOON,
WE ARE TELLING BRITISH THAT THEY MAY INFORM WEO'S
THAT (A) THEY BELIEVE EUROPEANS SHOULD TRY THEIR HAND
AT FIRST DRAFT, AND (B) UK HAS ITSELF COME UP WITH DRAFT
FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION, I.E., US DRAFT WITH COSMETIC
CHANGES CLEARED PER TELECON WITH DEPT.

9. AMB SCHAUFELLE HAS DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH ISRAELI
PERMREP TEKOA AND ASSURED HIM WE WOULD DO OUR BEST TO
HAVE ISRAELI CONCERNS GROUND INTO
BRITISH OPERATION.
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